

Remarks

Claims 1-32 presently are pending in the application.

Responsive to the Requirement for Election, Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-9, drawn to treating a catalyst, classified in Class 502, Subclass 35 (*see* Office Action, page 2), but respectfully requests reconsideration of the Requirement for Restriction for the reasons given below.

Non-elected Group II, claims 10-32, drawn to an isomerization process, classified in Class 585, Subclass 741 (*see* Office Action, page 2), is retained in this application pending reconsideration of the Requirement for Restriction.

The Requirement for Restriction is respectfully traversed. The Requirement for Restriction is based, at least in part, on the grounds that the invention(s) as set forth in the Office Action, are distinct and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by the cited classifications and that the fields of search are not the same. Both art classes referred to in the Office Action properly would be searched even if the Group II claims did not exist. Both Groups I and II claim an isomerization process.

The claims of Group I, drawn to an isomerization process, and Group II, also drawn to an isomerization process are so closely related in this application to be allowable in a single application. Both groups of claims clearly relate to isomerization processes. Both groups also claim the concept of introducing an organic aluminum halide compound into an isomerization feed. The only difference between Group II and Group I is that Group II specifies that the organic aluminum halide must be in an amount effective to inhibit deactivation of the isomerization

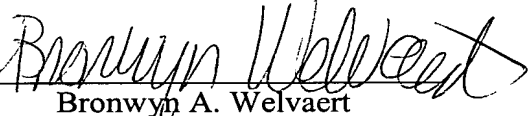
catalyst. Therefore, the two groups are intimately related. Additionally, this application was previously prosecuted without a Restriction Requirement. Group I is not drawn to treating a catalyst; it is actually drawn to treating a hydrocarbon feed used in an isomerization process.

Furthermore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to refer to MPEP 803, second paragraph, which encourages combinations, such as the combination of Group I and Group II claims in this application.

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-32 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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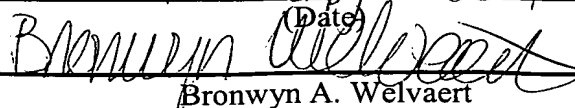
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